

Leaders,

Over the past several months, the Army has made a huge effort to eradicate hazing from our ranks. But unfortunately, I still get reports on hazing incidents.

Here's the bottom line up front: if we say and believe we are professionals, than hazing has no place in our Army. I've often said that to be a professional, you must possess the three Cs: competence, character, commitment. Hazing another Soldier does not fit any of these. It also doesn't fit into our Army Values or our Warrior Ethos.

As I talk to leaders about hazing, it seems to me that many aren't getting the message. They don't know the difference between hazing and corrective training. Many don't even know what regulation covers hazing.

In March, I testified on Capitol Hill on hazing. When I have to go on the Hill to answer for the actions of a few, it detracts from the hundreds of thousands of Soldiers out there who are doing the right thing.

One thing from the hearing will continue to stay with me. A congressman, who was once in the Army himself, said that hazing is prevalent because NCOs aren't doing their job. Now, I've been doing this job for over a year now, and our NCO Corps being called out by a member of Congress is one of the hardest things I've had to hear.

We have to get mad. We need to treat people who haze our Soldiers the same way you'd treat a barracks thief. You wouldn't tolerate someone stealing from your Soldiers and you certainly shouldn't tolerate anyone causing physical or psychological harm to them either.

I need you to lead this effort. I need you to be squad leaders again for a time and make sure our 1SGs are doing the right thing. Review the Army Profession material available at <http://cape.army.mil/> to help shape change.

SMA